

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Preparation of new syllabus and text books by NCERT

3890. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has started preparing new syllabus and text books, based on the recently released "National Curriculum Framework for School Education";

(b) whether NCERT has decided to scrap all the History text books it brought out over the years;

(c) whether it has finalised the list of experts who would prepare the new History syllabus and textbooks; and

(d) if so, who are the experts selected by NCERT for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The new History syllabus has been prepared by involving school teachers, experts, educationists, etc. As regards preparation of books, the list of experts/authors has not been finalised.

UGC recognition to astrology

3891. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has given recognition to Astrology being taught at College/University levels;

(b) if so, whether the syllabus for courses equivalent to Graduation has been finalized;

(c) what preparations have been made to make available vernacular versions to suit the medium of instructions adopted by each

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institution teaching Astrology, the basic scriptures/text being in Sanskrit;

(d) whether the course on Karma Kanda (Vedic rituals) is also proposed to be introduced soon at College level; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) According to the information furnished by UGC, the course in Vedic Astrology (Jyotir Vigyan) is to be introduced, for the present, at the University level only,

(b) and (c) The UGC has constituted a Committee to prepare a curriculum/syllabus which will look into all aspects relating to the subject including instructions at the graduation level. It will be for individual institutions to decide on their medium of instruction.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

WTO Assistance for ICDS Projects

3892. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has been funding the ICDS projects in India; if so, which are the beneficiary States covered by the ICDS-III projects;

(b) whether the Centre has posed any such project under ICDS from Karnataka for overseas aid/assistance; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what other Centrally sponsored projects under ICDS are underway in Karnataka; if so, how much total allocation has been made for these projects in 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The World Bank